

# NEWSLETTER



## ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

April 10, 1973

### SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Our thanks to Mr. Don Jordan for his donation of a Cycas revoluta (Sago Palm). The tree, valued by a local nurseryman at about \$975, has been incorporated into our demonstration shade garden.

The staff regrets the loss of three employees who recently resigned. We wish the best to Roger Fox, Edmund Villanueva, and Bob Seitzinger.

The lecture on Container Gardening, on Sunday, March 19, drew a more-than-capacity crowd. Overall attendance exceeded 850 visitors.

Attractive plants now in bloom include: grevillea species, Cassia tomentosa, Acacia melanoxylon, Acacia subporosa, Medicago arborea (Tree Clover), and Coronilla glauca.

### ARBORETUM DIVISION

A new garden has been developed in the Demonstration Home Gardens to help the people who live in apartments and townhouses get ideas for landscaping small areas. The structure and plantings are a Lang & Wood design and feature hand-hewn oak railroad ties and free-form panel structures.

Another Lang & Wood design will be executed in the plantings around the recently completed deck by the Bromeliad Greenhouse and along the west side of Baldwin Avenue.

Still another development that is taking place is at the corner of the road west of the Peacock Pavilion where we will develop an area that will give the visitors an opportunity to enjoy the vista of the Bauer Pool, Jungle, and Queen Anne Cottage.

Electrical work is nearly completed in the Meadowbrook area and the electricians will move next to the historical area where they

will begin installing increased power sources and convenience outlets.

### RESEARCH DIVISION

Weatherwise, this has been the most outstanding rain year since the inception of the LASCA weather station. Up to the end of March we have had 26.63 inches, all falling in the most beneficial way; no flooding - just thoroughly soaking our grounds. The gardeners welcome not having to water as this will enable them to care for the glorious flowers that will surely follow.

On the other hand, there is some damage to our experimental plot. For more than a year, the demonstration plot of fire-retardant plants at the Henninger Flats Resource Center in the mountains north of the Arboretum has been under observation by Ken Montgomery of our staff and Norm Cook of the County Forestry Division. They are interested in learning how each species performs in relation to a number of environmental factors such as climate and soil. Everything was going well until this past February when torrential storms created a river of mud and water that swept over the plot from the slopes above. More rain in March led to extensive surface soil erosion and gullying. The end result was that almost all of the plants were uprooted and killed. Despite the setback, the area is being cleaned-up, and several species have already been replanted. It is to be hoped we will be more fortunate in the future.

### DESCANSO GARDENS DIVISION

#### Garden Briefs:

A very successful lecture on composting was held last Sunday with 65 people in attendance.

Our tram Clark tractor is being converted to propane gas for cleaner operation and smoother

running.

The Hospitality House kitchen is finally nearing completion and should be ready for use in a month or two.

The lilac garden is in full bloom now with flowers better than ever.

The lily of the valley flowers are blooming beautifully now. Worth a trip to see. We had a successful deer drive in the gardens the other day. Chased three of them out the gate and into the hills. Should have some good roses if we can keep them out.

#### People:

Pete Zabriskie returned to work finally. We were all happy to have him back after being off so long with a broken leg.

We wish to welcome Ron Lavaneri to our grounds maintenance staff. Ron comes to us from the Probation Department.

Don Graf, our Senior Tour Guide was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the La Canada Youth Council. Congratulations Don.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Notification from the Department of Personnel has been received informing all county departments that insurance salesmen from Forman and Forman are not allowed to solicit county employees on county time and on county premises.

#### PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

This is the final week of preparation for the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta annual meeting to be held at the Arboretum from April 16 through April 19. Close to 100 conferees are

expected to take part in the various symposia and other activities that have been planned.

The Minibus has been equipped with a new amplifier and eight new loudspeakers which together will result in a much-needed improvement in the sound quality of the tram p.a. system.

We now have approximately 5,000 Poisonous Plant brochures on hand. Visitors can pick up a copy at the gatehouse or, if they wish it mailed, can send us 30¢ in stamps to cover mailing and envelope costs.

#### EDUCATION DIVISION

On April 5 a teacher-in-service workshop scheduled at the Arboretum reported an outstanding success. Teachers from 5 surrounding school districts participated in all the programmed activities which included field observation, interpretive collage work, quick demonstrations of terrariums and growing plants in the classroom. The afternoon seminar with Rudolph Shafer, State Department of Education consultant, and Grant Cary, Director of the Los Angeles City Schools Ecology Center was most productive. Jack Davidson, Consultant on Environmental Education, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, collaborated with Gertrude Woods on the agenda for the day.

Doris Bowers, docent and tour guide trainer from SCBG led a Tallow Knoll field study with emphasis on techniques. A perfect day weather-wise and sensitive leadership set the pace for the day.

Greetings to Rita Logue who joined the Division as ITC yesterday. She was playing typewriter tunes fortissimo before we had an opportunity to introduce her. Welcome Rita!